

## **The Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society**

**Headquarters: 2969 Vernon Ave., Chicago, Ill.**

MRS. KATHERINE S. WESTFALL, Corresponding Secretary

**E**ARLY in 1909 the two societies of Baptist women that for more than thirty years had been engaged in home mission work among the Negroes were consolidated under the name of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, with headquarters in Chicago.

The organized work by Baptist women for the Negroes was begun early in 1877, under the direction of Miss Joanna P. Moore, who had spent nearly fourteen years at work among the Negroes of the South along moral and educational lines. Miss Moore's work included the establishment of the "Fireside School," in which about ten thousand families are enrolled. Its purpose is to pledge parents and children in daily prayer, Bible reading, and Bible study, and to teach parents and children, husbands and wives and neighbors, their duties to each other. Miss Moore, at the age of seventy-seven, is still active in the work for the mental and moral uplift of the Negroes.

An important feature of the Society's work is the missionary training school for Negro women, inaugurated in 1892 at Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., and later located at Dallas, Tex. Most of the colored workers employed by the Society are graduates of this school.

The society supports 41 teachers in eight schools and colleges among the Negroes, the work ranging from the kindergarten to the college course. Dressmaking, millinery, printing, and domestic science are taught. Spelman Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., provides a thorough course in normal training, in addition to a department of nurse training. In addition to this work among the school, there were employed, at the beginning of 1909, 18 white and 30 colored missionaries in nineteen states.

In 1910 several thousand women in the Women's Home Missionary Societies in seven of the largest Christian denominations will take up the study of the Negro problem, "the needs of a child race." The Council of Women for Home Missions, of which Mrs. George W. Coleman, of Boston, for nineteen years President of the Woman's American Baptist Home Mission Society, is President, has selected as a text-book, "From Darkness to Light," written by Miss Mary Helm, a member of the Council, and a representative of the Women's Home Mission

Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The text-book, of 200 pages, considers concisely the processes of the evolution through which the Negro race has passed from an African savage to Christian American citizenship. The book contains seven chapters and is an earnest, discriminating volume.

## **Florida Institute, Live Oak, Fla.**

**L. C. Jones, Principal**

**T**HIS institution was founded in 1876 by the Negro Baptists of Florida, and is located on ten acres of land in Suwanee County, in the heart of a section of the state where a majority of the Negroes of Florida live.

The property, valued at \$50,000, includes a main building of eleven rooms, which contains a chapel with a seating capacity of 200; two dormitories, and the President's house.



**FLORIDA INSTITUTE, LIVE OAK, FLA.**

In 1908 the enrollment was 13 teachers and 315 students, with 13 students in the theological department.

The annual expenses of \$6,500 are provided largely by the Negro Baptists. The American Baptist Home Mission Society contributes \$500 a year. The courses are primary, normal preparatory, normal, academic, theological, and industrial.